

REMARKS

This amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Amended claims 1-4 and 6-7 and claim 5 are in this application.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Honjo (U.S. 5,337,088), and claims 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Honjo in view of Nozawa (US 6,360,018).

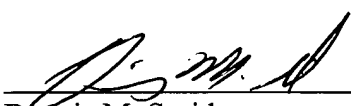
During the telephone interview held on January 29, 2004 between the Examiner and Damon Treitler (one of Applicants' undersigned attorneys), for which the Examiner is thanked, the Examiner stated that claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 as presented herein overcome the prior art of record. (See interview summary dated February 2, 2004). Claims 2, 4 and 5 depend from one of claims 1 and 3 and are therefore believed to overcome the prior art of record.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is respectfully solicited.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0320 for any additional fees that may be necessary in connection with the filing of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: _____


Dennis M. Smid
Reg. No. 34,930
(212) 588-0800